

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305283
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-01 /025 R

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NEA/PAB - MR. LANDE

----- 034907 /63

O 162205Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 305283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - DECEMBER 16

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN PRESS BRIEFING FOR DECEMBER 16,
1976:

Q. IS THERE ANY REACTION TO THE FRENCH ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT
THE BARRING OF FURTHER EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR FUEL?

A. WE WELCOME REPORTS THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS
DECIDED TO MAKE NO ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS TO SELL NUCLEAR
FUEL REPROCESSING FACILITIES. WE VIEW THIS AS AN
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IMPORTANT FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO WORLDWIDE NONPROLIFERATION
EFFORTS.

Q. IS THAT THE END OF YOUR STATEMENT?

A. THAT IS ALL.

Q. HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE PENDING FRENCH SALE TO PAKISTAN?

A. I THINK THAT IS PROBABLY STILL THE SUBJECT OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES HAVE A PART IN THE PROCESS OF PERSUADING THE FRENCH TO COME TO THIS DECISION?

A. NO, I WOULD NOT SAY SO.

Q. IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED -- BETWEEN --

A. WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE WHOLE QUESTION OF NONPROLIFERATION, WITH A NUMBER OF OUR ALLIES, AS WELL AS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE THIS CAPABILITY.

Q. INCLUDING THE FRENCH?

A. INCLUDING THE FRENCH.

Q. SO THEN YOU MAY HAVE HAD A (INAUDIBLE)

A. I TOOK YOUR QUESTION TO BE DIRECT, RATHER THAN PART OF A LARGER EFFORT. BUT WE ARE VERY HAPPY WITH THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT.

Q. DOES THIS CLEAR THE WAY, AT ALL, FOR THE UNITED STATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO PROCEED WITH THE SALE OF PLANES TO PAKISTAN?

A. I DO NOT THINK THE TWO ARE RELATED. NO.

Q. YOU DON'T THINK THE TWO ARE RELATED? THEY HAVE BEEN RELATED CONSTANTLY BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS. THEY WERE RELATED OFFICIALLY BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN FRANCE-- IN ANSWER TO A DIRECT QUESTION.

A. NO, I DO NOT THINK THE QUESTION IS -- I HAVE NOT SEEN THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT. BUT ON BACKGROUND, ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PARIS TODAY, IT SAID THAT THIS PARTICULAR ACTION DID NOT REFER TO EXISTING CONTRACTS. AND YOU ASKED ME, ABOUT THE PAKISTAN TRANSACTION; AND I SAID THAT WAS SUBJECT TO DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES. TODAY'S STATEMENT APPARENTLY REFERS TO NO ADDITIONAL NEW COMMITMENTS.

Q. SO YOU ARE SAYING, THEN, THAT AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE
DEAL IS STILL ON BETWEEN FRANCE AND PAKISTAN?

A. (STILL ON BACKGROUND) IF THE PRESS REPORTS ARE
CORRECT, THE STATEMENT DOES NOT REFER TO THE FRENCH-
PAKISTAN --

Q. APART FROM THE PRESS REPORTS, IS THE SALE OF FRENCH
REPROCESSING PLANTS TO PAKISTAN STILL ON AS FAR AS YOU
KNOW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT IT IS OFF. BUT IT IS STILL THE
SUBJECT OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES, AND THAT IS THE REASON
FOR THE ANSWER I GAVE. END BACKGROUND

ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE305283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MKBERRY:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0808
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761235/aaaabeor.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <01 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - DECEMBER 16 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN PRESS BRIEFING FOR DECEMBER
TAGS: PFOR, TECH, PK
To: ISLAMABAD NEW DELHI LAHORE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006